

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

October 14, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2163 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall,

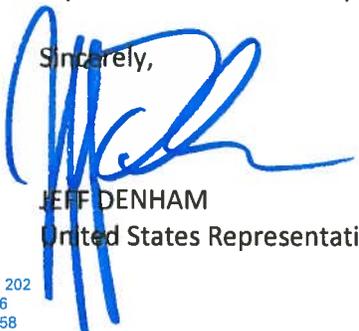
First let me congratulate you on successfully shepherding H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 through the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on a bipartisan basis. The unanimous vote is a testament to your leadership, and willingness to work across the aisle in the interest of the American people. I look forward to working with you as the bill heads to the floor.

In the Central Valley of California, water is the lifeblood that allows our farms to feed the nation. As you know California is home to some of the most fertile soil in the world and our agriculture industry is second to none in producing the food that feeds the nation and many around the world. I am pleased to see that this bill takes steps to streamline project delivery process and enhance the federal, state, and local partnership to better facilitate water projects going forward.

One of the most critical functions of WRRDA is to ensure projects that are endorsed by the Army Corps of Engineers through years of study and planning are funded. As such this legislation also includes several high priority water projects that have received final, signed Chief's Reports from the Army Corps of Engineers. As was noted during Committee consideration of WRRDA, all of the Chief's Reports contained in the legislation had officially been reviewed previously by the Committee.

At the time of WRRDA's consideration, a Chief's Report of great importance to my constituents was nearing completion. I have been working with the Corps to complete the Chief's Report on Orestimba Creek for over a decade and I am proud to say that shortly after committee passage of WRRDA we received the final signed Chief's Report for Orestimba Creek. This report represents a decade long commitment by the County of Stanislaus, the City of Newman, the Army Corps of Engineers, and this committee. Respectfully, I request that this Committee officially review this project so that the House may be able to ensure the project moves toward completion.

Sincerely,



JEFF DENHAM
United States Representative